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United States Senate

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October 17, 2002

The Honorable Christine Todd Whitman
Administrator
United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, Northwest
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Whitman:

I am writing about the urgent need to act on the quickly spreading plume of perchlorate that has now closed eight wells in Rialto and Colton in western San Bernardino County. I am asking for your personal attention to focus EPA's resources on this problem.

Local water agencies are losing water production at an alarming rate and lack resources to fully address this problem on their own at this time. Only quick action can insure that we do not lose scarce water that could be used to meet California's domestic needs. The movement of the underground plume, combined with a major drought, combine to make this an emergency situation.

I would appreciate your investigation of this matter and a report from you on how the EPA plans to address this serious problem. If additional information is needed, you may contact Alton Garrett in my San Bernardino office at 909-888-8525.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Barbara Boxer
United States Senator

BB:alg

cc: Wayne Nastri, Administrator
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